I recently received a copy of the El Dorado County Gem & Mineral Society’s newsletter, edited by Merryan O’Neill that contained an article by Clay Williams on exhibiting. As AFMS Judges Training Chair, I’m not only interested in working with judges, but also in working with exhibitors and making their experience educational and eventually helping them get to the ultimate achievement, winning a Master’s trophy at the AFMS level...

Clay’s article exemplifies what we are trying to do to upgrade displays, competitive and non-competitive. In recent years, in the California Federation on the non-competitive application form we added a box with a notation asking the exhibitor to check the box if they wish to have someone from the rules committee or a judge that specializes in their particular area of interest evaluate and suggest ways to bring the exhibit into competition readiness. This has encouraged many exhibitors to enter their displays as competitive exhibits in future years.

Clay’s article is reprinted below because we believe everyone should have a copy of this to help them begin their journey through exhibiting culminating in competitive exhibiting. For new members of local clubs, this is a guideline to taking your first steps toward putting in a case at your local show.

We urge all regional federations to have an Exhibitors and Judges workshop/seminar at the earliest opportunity. Let’s make, as our goal, exhibiting an important part of your annual fun activities.

Sincere thanks to Clay Williams for a thoughtful and meaningful article. Editors: Please copy.

Dee Holland
AFMS Judges Training Committee

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DISPLAYING YOUR TREASURES

by Clay Williams, El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society

Whether a case contains mineral specimen(s) or the product of any other related activity, the challenge is to display them to best effect. The author, who is struggling with the mastery of this art and has been for a number of years through successes and occasional failures, was asked by several club VIP’s to share some of his insights.

A good place to start is the color scheme. The colors of all supporting elements of the exhibit should be relatively muted and, for the best effect, should both match each other and what is being displayed. The author took labels in colors that were appealing and also blended with his specimens, along with a junk piece of mineral that matched those specimens, to a fabric store where he placed each next to liner fabric candidates. The store clerk must have wondered what was going on. When the winning fabric was finally determined, the only other limitation was, could enough be purchased to cover all liner foam board and any possible fabric covered risers?

The word, muted, cannot be emphasized enough when talking about the case, the liners, the mounts and/or risers and the labels! All should be less eye catching than the object or objects of display. Various earth tone colors are an excellent way to execute this difference. Avoid bright colors, especially red, at all cost! That the last, when on cars, draws inordinate scrutiny from police should continued on page 4

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Last month I mentioned a number of things that were happening or about to happen during the coming months. Let’s recap: Working with Bob Livingston on regional and AFMS show dates; the dues increase of 25 cents; Bob Jones as International Relations and Goodwill Ambassador; Fran Silk as Public Relations; Dick Pankey as Ad Hoc Inter-Federation Field Trip Coordinator; Ron Carman as Ad Hoc Study of Contests and Competition; Money allotted for Regional Programs by Marge Collins; Money allotted for additional Junior Badges by Jim Brace-Thompson; and the Commemorative Stamp Program by Wendell Mohr; Joy Bourne staying on as Endowment Fund Chair as well as her new duties as President Elect; Cathy Gaber and the new AFMS Rockhound of the Year certificates; and John Wright our new Conservation and Legislation chair.

I’d like to continue this month with more happenings. The many AFMS contests are beginning. Is your regional federation participating: Do you have a chair for each of the contests listed below?

MARGIE COLLINS, our Programs Chair has been asking (begging) for years for YOU to send her programs. There are a number of ways you and your clubs are doing local programs. Seriously consider making your programs available to the AFMS and the other regions by submitting your efforts. Think about your “how to” and field trip programs that could be of interest to others throughout the regions. Marge will work with you to get the right information and effect in producing a program that is worthy of an award, but also seriously consider the pride that goes with the effort. Please check her column about the program contest and SERIOUSLY THINK ABOUT ENTERING A PROGRAM THIS YEAR.

Another contest that has come along, but is far from being utilized by the regions is the AFMS Education - All American Award contest, chaired by JOHN WASHBURN. This contest has been around for many years and at one time was very popular. Does your federation have an Education-All American Chair? Entry form on page 10 of the November 2007 issue of the AFMS Newsletter. Is your federation participating in the contest, if not why not??? It’s really a simple procedure: Begin by gathering your club bulletins for the previous year and use them as a guide; have a committee work on the project, dividing up the work to make it easier; break down the items listed on the contest sheet, and give each person a section to work on; find someone in your club who is into “scrapbooking” and begin to assemble your book. Use creativity. When you have your book finished, send it on, but remember – you have created a lasting history of what your club did during that particular year. REPEAT… the following year and you’ll have a condensed volume each year of your clubs activities – make your historian proud. Just a thought, couldn’t we change the name of the chair and contest to just “ALL AMERICAN AWARD” ……and drop the “Education”. What are your thoughts on this, it might clear up any misunderstanding on what the contest is about.

LINDA JAEGER, our new Club Publications chair has been busy working to clarify some of the items in the 2008 Bulletin Contest, look for some changes and her ideas on what might/could/should happen in the future. I’m sure you read her column in the October AFMS Newsletter, page 5. Linda has been in contact with many bulletin chairmen throughout the regions as well as others interested in the contest. Let’s surprise Linda and the regional Bulletin Aids Chairs and swamp them with entries. And let’s have a huge Bulletin Editor’s Breakfast in Houston! Aren’t you proud of your editor and your club bulletin? Then see that it’s sent in. I’ve read over the years many club bulletins with wonderful articles, BUT THEY WERE NEVER SENT IN TO THE CONTEST! What a shame, these could have been award-winners and been included in the Publication of Winning Articles sold each year at the Bulletin Editors Awards Breakfast. Please don’t say, “I’ll do it, maybe tomorrow.” …the “tomorrow” never comes.

RON CARMAN, Ad Hoc Chair for Contests and Competition Study listed his regional committee chairs in the November 2007 AFMS Newsletter. He has been in contact with them all. Now it’s up to you to contact them with your thoughts and ideas. We need the input of everyone for this to be successful. We especially need to hear from you if you have ideas that will update or enhance these contests and what we need to get the competitive exhibits back to where they used to be. Several of the regional federations are taking this on, but we need you all to help.

Now for some exciting news…. I have been in touch with the managing editor of Rock and Gem magazine. I offered to find people within the AFMS, throughout the country who could answer questions on the new page in the magazine titled “Field Notes.” Your enthusiasm was overwhelming. Lynn now has a huge list of volunteers who will be on stand-by to answer questions sent in to the magazine. Lynn asked me to remind you all about a contest the magazine is conducting: “Lapidary Article of the Year Contest” See page 54 of the December 2007 issue and then “go for it!” Also, I invited Lynn to attend and participate in the SCFMS/AFMS show in Humble (Houston area), Texas in September. She has been cleared by her boss to attend. I know you will give her a warm Texas welcome.

I have also contacted the incoming President of the Gem and Mineral Federation of Canada, Dave CAMERON, who will be holding the 2008 show in January 2008. The theme is “The Rocks of Africa.” Dave would like to know if you would be interested in having your club participate in this show. Let’s all think about how we can build a Resource Exhibit and a display of our regional clubs. Dave would love to have your club come together and show off all the wonderful things you are doing. We would have something to be proud of and you can do it in style!!!
Barclay and I will be attending their meeting and show in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in August. (I’ll have to get my passport renewed). If you have vacation plans that include a trip to Canada this summer, you might consider attending.

Now I have some important news about how to reach me. Many of you already know I have cranky servers for our emails. So please, if you’re trying to reach me use both emails and hopefully one will come thru: <shirleyleeson@msn.com> and <beauholland@salmoninternet.com>

Also for surface mail, please send all mail to PO. Box 23, Tendoy, ID 83468. This is because we travel and the post office in La Mesa, CA can’t seem to deal with the problems. They became the problem so all my mail now goes to Idaho and the postmaster forwards the mail to La Mesa if need be. If you don’t hear from me within a few days, please realize we’re on the road. If urgent, contact the central office and they will know where we are.

And…did you see the article by BOB JONES in the December 2007 issue or Rock and Gem? It’s about our AFMS Scholarship Honorees! Now, dig deep in your pockets and give. Contact your regional scholarship chair with a donation today.

WENDELL MOHR, our COMMEMORATIVE STAMP CHAIR now has the new information about suggested U.S. birthstone stamps up on the amfed.org website. You can download the information, particularly the item for teachers. If you’re having a show and it includes students and/or scouts, etc. Please make copies of the information and ask the teachers and their students to participate. Let’s get this thing off the ground with a big push. We will be working at the Tucson show in February to see that the students who attend the show know about the project. Won’t you do the same?

And finally, I want to wish all of you a very happy holiday season and a wonderful new year. Here’s hoping that you receive all the rocks you wish for and that 2008 proves to be a healthy, happy and productive one for each of you and your families.

Thanks for listening,

Your President,
Shirley

Merry Christmas

HAPPY CHANUKAH

MY THOUGHTS

continued from page 2

According to the OPs, I have 15 specific tasks to accomplish this year, one of which is to “Aid the President and make suggestions for Federation benefit.” It appears to me that President Shirley is doing very well at that task, and I am sure she will keep me busy without my having to make suggestions!

A second duty involving “aid” for me this year is to “Aid committee Chairpersons when requested.” Now this part is up to you, dear reader. I am at your service, but only upon your request. This is where communication is of utmost importance. Please let me know if I can help you do your job. I do not have all the answers, but have been around long enough that I may come up with some suggestions and/or answers. Sometimes, just a new look puts things into perspective and if I do not have the answer you need, I may know where to look for it. Keep in touch!

Kudos to Carolyn for the new series of articles in the AFMS Newsletter, in which she is giving us brief sketches of the people of AFMS. This is a super way to become acquainted in this far-flung organization, and I am looking forward to the next installment. The better we know each other, the more effective we become as an organization. And that is what it is all about.

Happy holidays to all. Take a break and enjoy this special time with families and friends! We’ll be back in 2008.
QUICK TIPS FOR EDITORS
by Linda Jaeger, AFMS Club Publications Chair

If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing or the bulletin contest or something related, send it to me by email: <LjgrAlg@aol.com> or at home address: 3515 E. 88th St., Tulsa, OK 74137. If I cannot find an answer to your question, we’ll publish the question and ask the readers for their answers.

ON THE WEB
AFMS webmaster Marty Hart has done an outstanding job of putting the AFMS contest material online. In addition to AFMS rules and sample score sheets for each category, there are articles by Diane Dare (“Judicial Opinions”- advanced articles, “SEZ Who??”- research & references, “What is a ‘Special Publication’?”) and a short slide show by Terry Yoschak (Reader Forums- using online forums to find rockhound hints & tips to use in your newsletter).

If you haven’t checked this out, be sure to visit the AFMS website at www.amfed.org. It will be worth your while!

THEMED ISSUES
Are you having fun editing your newsletter? Have you considered occasionally publishing a themed issue? Maybe something that goes along with a holiday or an issue that looks at one subject from many different perspectives?

We receive a number of exchange newsletters from other clubs, and as I write this it’s not yet Halloween. I can’t help but think of the October newsletter I looked at yesterday – what a treat for the eyes and my sense of humor! The paper was a pleasant orange with a scary-look- ing Halloween font in black, and the first article I saw was about “devil’s toenails” (a fossil, if that’s not your bag). There were several other clever Halloween-related titles that belonged to rock-related topics, as well as some appropriate clipart. What fun! (And you can still include Federation News and other items required for editors’ contests.)

How about an issue on dinosaurs? Any found rockhound hints & tips related to dinos? Made dioramas who has carved a dino out of soapstone? Done any beadwork related to dinos? Made dioramas of the Cretaceous or Jurassic periods? Talked to kids’ groups about dinosaurs? Photos of club members on a field trip to a dig or museum?

As you can see, the possibilities are endless. You can take almost any subject and explore the same types of questions I asked/answered above. Voila! You have a themed issue.

Layout within the case is, of course, a personal thing. However, too much clutter looks very unprofessional and should be avoided; it diminishes the overall impression. Also to be avoided is the placement of lower quality material among stars; the former detracts from the latter. This is easier said than done, especially if one is new to collecting and therefore, has a limited choice of what to include.

Labels should be of consistent type and not look like they were just thrown in. The liner or liners should cover the entire area visible through the glass, and not be stained or dirty. Avoid giving the appearance that your effort was lacking.

It is a good idea to try putting your case together pre-show. Such a dry run will get the kinks out, if any. It is the time to make final changes and is great practice, especially if the exhibit is at all complex. Also this can uncover any omissions while something can still be done.

Good luck!

Note: Clay Williams has credentials behind his advice. He has entered his displays and won in competition at California Federation of Mineralogical Societies shows. He won the 1st Place Advanced Minerals Trophy for his copper minerals case and was also awarded the coveted Hamel Minerals Trophy at the 2005 CFMS Show in Roseville, CA. In June, he received the 1st Place Masters Minerals Trophy for his copper mineral case at the 2007 CFMS Show in Lancaster, CA.

DISPLAYING YOUR TREASURES
continued from page 1

be a hint why. The bright purple liner that I saw at a recent show should probably go in favor of something much less attention getting – after all, the intent is to get people to focus on what is being displayed, not on the background.

Labeling is important and indicates the exhibitor has taken the trouble to correctly identify your treasure. In most cases, such as with minerals and fossils, it should definitely include locality and name information. This should be more specific than, say, “Emerald, South America.” A better effort would state that emerald is a variety of beryl and, at the very least, give the country and province, region or district of origin. It also might be nice to know where a lapped piece of tiger’s eye, topaz in a jewelry setting or turquoise in a belt buckle came from. Competitive entries have certain requirements, which vary for different types of displays. Check the AFMS rules and CFMS Supplementary Rules Information. It would also be a good idea to ask for someone’s advice if you are contemplating such a move. Even though not really muted, black, depending on the shade of your liner, usually is fairly readable. Readability is an important issue and is one reason why the author tested a sample label at the fabric store. Readability also limits your choice of fonts. Making that font bold and of a reasonable size helps, as it must be assumed that not everyone can see or read well.

The author’s labels are composed on a PC and then printed onto transparencies using an ink-jet. Each transparency page is then cut into individual labels, which may be further trimmed to fit in the spaces between specimens. Gloves are used whenever handling the finished product, as it fingerprints easily. This not-often-seen procedure gets lots of attention from those more interested in the process than the item or items being displayed.

Layout within the case is, of course, a personal thing. However, too much clutter looks very unprofessional and should be avoided; it diminishes the overall impression. Also to be avoided is the placement of lower quality material among stars; the former detracts from the latter. This is easier said than done, especially if one is new to collecting and therefore, has a limited choice of what to include.

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Correction
From the Editor

In an article appearing in the November AFMS Newsletter we indicated that Rock & Gem magazine was now the only magazine printing club show information.

This is not true!!!

Rocks and Minerals magazine also prints club show information in their excellent publication. You can send your show information to them at <rocksandminerals@fuse.net>.

Please remember that all magazines have a 3 - 4 month “lead time” and that you should send your show information to them as early as possible to be sure that it is included.

For more information about Rocks & Minerals go to <rocksandminerals.org>. For Rock & Gem, you can visit <www.rockngem.com>.
LEGISLATION & CONSERVATION

by John Wright, Conservation & Legislation Chair

Just a few days ago my wife and I returned from a month of traveling in the northeast and it was really a wonderful trip. Yep, I took my "rock-hammer", but it never came out of the vehicle, not even when we visited the mines at Herkimer, NY. Our intentions were changed when we arrived at the mine and found several school buses in the parking lot. It looked like someone had stirred up an ant bed of future rockhounds, so we decided it might be better to just visit the rock shop. Anyway, our trip was actually to visit some of the early American historical sites and to do some sightseeing in that part of the country. We were not really disappointed that we didn't get to do any rock-hounding, but we did find a lot of areas where we would like to return to one day for that purpose. The bad part of a trip like ours is that when you return home you find that you are not even the target of this legislation; it is so important that we let our feelings be known, I mean after all most of us will probably never find or try to dig up a dinosaur fossil like a Tyrannosaurus Rex or a Brontosaurus. Actually, I would probably never find a window of opportunity to voice our opinion on things that need to be done.

As of this date (remember I write these articles for the newsletter a month in advance) the two Bills in Congress regarding the Paleontologi- cal Resources Preservation Act have not been acted on and remain stalled (at least for the time being). The Senate version (S-320) is on the legislative calendar, but has not been brought up for a vote. The House version (HR-554) is still in committee and I have not yet seen a committee report or a move to bring it to the floor. Since I had been away for a month and had a tempestuous glitch in my return, I returned and want to thank Jon Spunaugle for bringing me up to date on this particular issue.

With this legislation being stalled we still have a window of opportunity to voice our position to members of Congress and I strongly urge you to do so. Many of you have just assumed your new leadership positions and you are worried about how your year at the helm will turn out. I know that you have a lot on your plate and now I’m asking you to add more, but we have been blessed with another chance to make a really profound difference. Will your legacy be that you served the best refreshments, had the best meeting rooms under similar business and many of the prized specimens will be sold on the black market or quietly slipped out of the country to be sold. Will the Paleontologists gain from this proposed law, maybe, but they will loose a lot of public input and support. I know that I wouldn't report a major fossil find because if there is any site damage, I would be a suspect and I don't want police searching my home. Think about these issues and while you are at it, I want you to remember "We the People" own these federal lands and our ances- tors obtained them with their blood, sacrifice, and unimaginable hardships. We in turn have continued to support these lands often under similar conditions and with the added burden of our hard earned money in tax dollars. We should not ever consider letting our access to public owned lands or their contents (in this case fossils) be restricted or taken away without a fight.

Bringing this matter to the attention of your membership might create some interest or maybe even a little excitement for a few of minutes, but that will be about as far as it goes. The only sure way of getting any meaningful effort underway is to make it a club project as I pointed out in my November article. While individual letters would be best, it requires more effort and higher cost, so the better solution would probably be a club petition. The docu- ment must have the signature, printed name, and address of each individual taking part. PS: Your petition does not have to be restricted to members only, you may include family mem- bers, friends, and most anyone else you can convince to take part. Politicians are swayed by numbers, so get as many signatures as you pos- sibly can. I found several petitions on the internet. The one I personally liked best was by the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina and it can be found by going to the AFMS internet site and then to the sub-site for Southeast Federation. The petition is in the "Resources" section under the title "Paleontological Resources Preservation Act". Any letters or petitions used as a format should be re-written to reflect the views of your club.

I know that some of you are wondering why it is so important that we let our feelings be known, I mean after all most of us will probably never find or try to dig up a dinosaur fossil like a Tyrannosaurus Rex or a Brontosaurus. Actually, we are at the heart of this legislation; the fight so to speak is between the scientific community and the commercial business and many of the prized specimens will be sold on the black market or quietly slipped out of the country to be sold. Will the Paleontologists gain from this proposed law, maybe, but they will loose a lot of public input and support. I know that I wouldn't report a major fossil find because if there is any site damage, I would be a suspect and I don't want police searching my home. Think about these issues and while you are at it, I want you to remember "We the People" own these federal lands and our ances- tors obtained them with their blood, sacrifice, and unimaginable hardships. We in turn have continued to support these lands often under similar conditions and with the added burden of our hard earned money in tax dollars. We should not ever consider letting our access to public owned lands or their contents (in this case fossils) be restricted or taken away without a fight.

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Having Fun - Junior Activities

Darryl Powell’s Diamond Dan: A Great Resource for Kid’s Activities

by Jon Bruce Thompson

Nearly a decade ago, I became familiar with a wonderful coloring book published under the name of “Diamond Dan.” Entitled Minerals: Coloring Fun for Kids, it marched through the mineralogical kingdom in A, B, C fashion, introducing miner- als from Agate to Zincone with eye- catching graphics. At the time, I was president of the Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society, and we ordered a batch of these books to give to kids in our Kids Activities Booth for our show. I’ve since moved to Ventura, California, and I continue to order and distribute copies at the annual Ventura Gem & Mineral Society show, and they continue to be a big hit, both with kids and teachers. Then at the 2004 AFMS Show in Syracuse, New York, I had the great privilege of meeting the creator of Diamond Dan in person: Darryl Powell, of Man- chester, New York.

I had learned earlier that Darryl had expanded his line beyond the mineral book and was also offering a coloring and activity book on gold, as well as a series of “Earth Digger Clubs” mineral identification packets that rewarded kids with a patch on completing each packet. At this year’s California Federation show in June, Terry McMillan of the Mother Lode Mineral Society brought along a supply of flyers showing that Diamond Dan has continued to dig up exciting new ideas and proj- ects for kids. I reviewed them earlier this fall in the California Federation newsletter, and I’ve been asked to review them for the American Federation newsletter, as well, so here goes:

• The World of Minerals & Crystals introduces minerals from A to Z, with commentary on their physical properties, forms, and uses in everyday life. A reading/coloring section is followed by an activity section with crossword puzzles, word finds, etc., to reinforce info from the coloring section.

• Corundum Carl’s Great Crystal Adven- ture introduces kids to crystallography, or the science and study of crystals. It includes 13 crystal models that can be cut out and folded into 3-dimensional crystal shapes and a recipe of growing crystals.

• Mineral Note Cards is a package containing a set of 8 full-color note cards. 4.25 X 5.5 inches and envelopes. The note cards come in sets of gold, scheelite, vivianite, fluorapatite, amethyst, rhodochrosite, benitoite, and garnet. In the book Gold! Nugget the Prospector” guides young readers through the world of gold: What is it? Where is it found? Why is it so valuable? A reading/coloring section is followed by activities like crossword puzzles and word finds.

Happy rockhounding!
The purpose of this Competition is to Recognize and Reward authors of presentations about the Earth Sciences and to make winning programs available to affiliated Clubs across the country. Slide, video or digital presentations relating to the Earth Sciences are eligible. Submit entries in one of the four amateur classes or "EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION" for "commercial" presentations.

* Each program is judged on its own merits.
* Entrants in amateur categories will receive a composite score sheet with comments / score.
* Judging Form and "Tips for Good Programs" are available from AFMS Coordinator or your Regional Program Library.

WHO MAY ENTER
Any Club, Society, or members thereof, with 2008 dues paid to a Federation affiliated with AFMS may enter. (Does not apply to "Excel- lence in Education" entries).

DEADLINE for entry: April 15, 2008

CLASSES FOR ENTRIES
Class 1 - Educational - about geology, minerals, gems, fossils, etc.
Class 2 - Field Collecting - showing site(s), specimens, with some geology, collecting methods and other aspects of interest.
Class 3 - "How To Do It" - techniques/equipment for fossil prep., jewelry, metal work, carving, faceting, other lapidary, etc.
Class 4 - "Just for Juniors" - any of the above for youngsters.
"Excellence in Education" entries are judged separately.

JUDGING (Judges look for:)
- accuracy of information / educational value
- quality of photographs / visuals
- completeness of story
- narration that reads/moves well, one slide/view to the next
- presentations that explore an area of interest or demonstrate ideas/techniques which viewers may try
- title, credits and "The End" slides
- phonetic spelling of unfamiliar words in script
  example: Sault Ste. Marie (SUE saint marie)

For VHS VIDEOS, CD or DVD entries
- submit a copy.
- may be 'live action' or static slides with narration.

For SLIDE PRESENTATIONS
- must be 35mm, in standard mounts.
- must be relatively new originals on Kodak compatible film, otherwise good copies may be impossible.

FOR EXCEPTIONS - contact Coordinator
- must be spotted for projection, preferably with a red dot in lower left corner and coded with entrant's initials.
- must be numbered to match script.
- a script (written narration indicating when each slide is to be projected) preferably typed, ready for duplication. (sample formats available upon request) Script on a "floppy" or CD is very helpful but not required.

AWARDS
A $200 cash prize for the highest scoring program (with 95+ points), $100 if score is 94 - 90 points, (for highest score) in each Class 1 - 4. In addition, Winners receive national recognition.

A copy of each winning program is given to each Regional Program Library; thus winning programs are available to Clubs across the country. Winners will be announced at the AFMS Awards Banquet at Humble TX, September 26, 2008.

PROGRAM LENGTH
Adult programs – 30 - 40 minutes is optimum
Juniors - 20 minutes suggested maximum
Suggested maximum slides - 138 (+ 2 Award Slides = 140)

REPRODUCTION / DUPLICATION
By entering, all winners grant permission for AFMS to duplicate their entry for the Regional Libraries. 35mm slides are duplicated by a professional service then returned to producer. Arrangements will be made regarding video / CD-ROM duplicates. Non-winners will be returned after AFMS Convention. AFMS will take reasonable precautions to protect program while it is in our hands.

HOW TO ENTER
Fill out entry form (or copy) and ship with carefully packed program to address below.

DIRECT QUESTIONS AND ENTRIES TO:
AFMS Program Competition Coordinator, Marge Collins, 3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd., Buchanan MI 49107 phone: (269) 695-4313 email: <margaret@qtm.net>

2008 ENTRY FORM
I/we submit " ____________________________ "
(title)
in [circle one] Class 1 Class 2 Class 3 Class 4 OR "EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION" (for programs produced "for sale")
Producer(s) ____________________________________________________________________________
(your name/s)
Club: ________________________________________________________________________________
Office (if club entry) __________________________________________________________ Federation
Street Address: ________________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: __________ Zip: ________________________________
Home phone __________________________ e-mail ____________________________________________
IS THIS PROGRAM FOR SALE? No__________ Yes__________ Cost: _______________________
YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK - 2007 SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION HONOREES AND STUDENTS

by Dee Holland, AFMS Scholarship Foundation President

The AFMS Scholarship Foundation is pleased to share with you information about the most recent Honorary Awardees and the students they have selected. Only the interest from monies invested in the Foundation is used for these scholarships—currently $2,000 per student per year for two years. This represents a total of $48,000 the AFMS Scholarship Foundation has designated for graduate students in the Geo-Sciences in just one year. All of you who have contributed to the Fund should feel a real sense of pride.

California Federation:
Wayne Leicht, collector, author and mineral dealer, Laguna Beach, California

Jessica Horwitz, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama. Research on mineralogical association of Uranium in the metamorphic Higgins Ferry Formation, Inner Piedmont, Alabama.

Hinako Uchida, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

Dr. Barrie Bieler, 2006, Retired from Adult Education, Walnut Creek, CA

2nd Year Students:
Amy Hoffman, Cal Tech, Pasadena, CA
The causes and significance of heavy oxygen enrichment in zircons from Western Australia
William Arnidon, Cal Tech, Pasadena, CA.
Calibration of cosmogenic He-3 production rates in apatite and zircon.

Eastern Federation:
Dr. Peter Heaney, Department of Geosciences & Materials Research Institute, Penn State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

Andrew (Andy) Wall, Penn State University, University Park, Pennsylvania. Research Topic: Crystallographic control in Cu isotope fractionation.
Emily Freeman, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin

Professor Richard Yuretich, 2006, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

2nd year students:
Nancy Price, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
Sarah Schillawski, University of Mass, Amherst, MA

Midwest Federation:
Dr. George Robinson, Michigan Tech University, Houghton, Michigan

Lara Kapelanczuk, Michigan Tech University, Houghton, Michigan

Jonathan South, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana. Research in Earth & Environmental Sciences

Kitty and Marve Starbuck, Past Midwest Presidents, 2006

2nd year Students:
Amanda Walega, Western University of Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI. M.S. Science. Research on "A localized investigation of flow properties within Michigan's Saginaw Aquifer, using the applications of sedimentary petrography and enhanced groundwater modeling.


Northwest Federation:
Dr. Richard Berg, Montana Tech, Butte, Montana

Jane Filimore, Montana Tech, Butte, Montana MS – Geological Engineering

Shawn Kuzara, Montana Tech, Butte, Montana MS – Hydrogeology

Kristine Crossen, 2006 Associate Professor, University of Alaska, Anchorage, AK

2nd year Students:
Matt Boves, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK. M.S. Geology. Thesis research: Correlation of Tephra Deposits in Lake Sediment Records, Lake Clark National Park, Alaska

Brad Burich, University of Alaska, Anchorage, AK. M.S. Interdisciplinary Studies, Thesis research: Geochemical pathways and Land-use associations of Potentially Toxic Metals in the Anchorage Watershed, Alaska

Rocky Mountain Federation
Dr. Jack Murphy, Curator Emeritus, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Denver, CO

Emily Caskey, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO. MS – Earth Sciences

Byron Michael Straw, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO. MS – Earth Sciences

Dr. David London, 2006, School of Geology & Geophysics, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

2nd year students:
Kerry A. Paul, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK. MS candidate of Geology, Thesis "Mineralogy, Internal Zonation, and Thermal History of the Little Three Pegmatite, Ramona, California. "


South Central Federation:
Mrs. Alexie Hueska Bienick, Retired, Secondary Science Teacher, Cut & Shoot, TX

Daniel Danely, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. MS – Researching the paleobotany and paleoecology of the Late Oligocene Chilpa Basin of Ethiopia

Kevin James Davis, Rice University, Houston, Texas, PhD. In Biogeochemistry, Dissertation "Seeks to better understand the role of solution chemistry and microbial attachment in the growth and dissolution of carbonates minerals."

Dr. Barb Dutrow, 2006 Dept of Geology & Geophysics, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

2nd year students:
Corine Armstrong, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. MS – Research interests centers around using mineral chemistry as provenance indicators in sedimentary rocks.

Kyle M. Metz, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. MS – Geology & Geophysics. Research involves mapping & collecting samples of some Precambrian roof mantles on top of a Tertiary intrusion in the Sawtooth Mountains of central Idaho.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES
continued from page 6

• Crystal Clips V is a CD-ROM holding over 900 mineral and crystal drawings in both color and black-and-white in TIFF and JPEG formats.

• Earth Digger Clubs involves a series of mineral-identification exercises in kits of 1-hour activities with patches as awards for kids who complete an activity. Kids learn about individual minerals such as calcite, pyrite, quartz, gypsum or fluorite, as well as about properties of minerals such as hardness, color, crystal formation, etc.

Finally, Darryl has embarked on yet another adventure extending his line of already excellent works: Mini Miners Monthly, a monthly publication for young mineral collectors. Each month, readers will find interesting articles, crossword puzzles, word searches, hints for building a collection, cut-and-fold crystal models, and more. An annual subscription is $19.95 ($36.95 for two years). To get subscriptions for kids in your club, and to learn how to purchase individual or bulk quantities of Darryl’s other fine publications, contact Darryl Powell, Diamond Dan Publications, P.O. Box 143, Manchester, NY 14504, (585) 289-4936, email diamonddan@rochester.rr.com. Or check his web site at www.diamonddannpublications.com. You’ll be sure to find a treasure trove of resources for kids by a wonderful person who certainly knows how to educate while—as always—having fun!
Where Am I?

We have apparently lost much of our instinctive knowledge about where we are at any point in time. I fear that most of us often really do not know where we are. We may wake up at night and be disoriented. We may be traveling and be confused about which way we are going. We may know which way is up but not know which way is North or South. If I fly into a strange city and it night or a very cloudy day, I may have trouble getting oriented.

The question then becomes "how do we establish our sense of direction"? One answer can be what we will call "inherent knowledge". This is arrived at by our internal computer which knows where we started and how long or how far we have traveled. From this information we intuitively can figure about where we are located.

It is possible that this "inherent knowledge" is a learned or cultivated technique and we can lose some of this skill if we do not use it regularly. It seems that those individuals who lived in a rural setting may have a more highly developed sense of direction and location.

Most of us also rely on the sun, moon and stars. Even those of us who have not really studied astronomy acquire a sense of direction from the heavens. We always have a sense of the path of the sun as it traverses the heavens. When I was a boy and worked with my father who was a surveyor, he very often would "shoot Polaris". He would take a sighting with his transit on the North Star at any time of the day. He showed me how to find the North Star in daylight but I really never got good at it. If you had a sighting on the North Star and the proper book of tables, it was easy to establish where you were. I could never do a lot with the location of the moon because I never studied its location and path to the point that I could navigate even approximately using the moon. If you have a sextant (which I do) and can use it (which I could) you can do amazing calculations to find out your location using the stars.

We can and should rely on other methods to avoid getting lost. How about a map and a compass? This technique works. A recent report by the rescue personnel of the State of Alabama stated that a very small percentage of lost people had even bothered to carry a map or a compass with them. Now I hate to be critical, but that is stupid.

The last approach that is rapidly gaining favor is the GPS or Global Positioning System. These gadgets are really taking the world by storm and are used by many of us. There is an endless variety of units and you may want to study what is out there before making a purchase. The only other advice I have is that you need to learn how to operate your system before you need it. DO NOT wait until you are out in the wild before you try it on to see how it works!

TRI-FEDERATION ROCKHOUND RENDEZVOUS

As promised the announcement flier with detailed information on our 2008 Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous is now available. The flier has the information about the Rendezvous: material available; location; directions to camp; schedule; motels and RV parks nearby; and various activities that are planned. It is available on American, Northwest, Rocky Mountain and California Federations' web sites and, on the next page in this newsletter. I request and hope that the individuals in each club who receive the Newsletter will pass this information and the flier on to your club Field Trip Leader or Editor or to someone to make copies and distribute to interested members of your club. A challenge with any event is the advertising, with getting the word out to the user; in this case, to the people who might be interested in attending this field trip/rendezvous. So we are looking to the people who get the AFMS and/or your Federation Newsletter to get this information to your members.

Look for the flier and other Rendezvous information on these web sites:
AFMS – www.amfed.org
NFMS – www.amfed.org/nfms
RMFMS – www.rmfms.org
CFMS – www.cfmsinc.org

For more information and to sign-up to attend the Rendezvous e-mail (preferred) or call your respective Federation Field Trip Leader (bottom of the first page of the flier). Or contact me at dickpankey@juno.com.

Come join us for a great Tri-Federation Rendezvous of collecting, fun and fellowship. Mark your calendar, schedule your vacation, and plan to join us next May 21st to 26th.

continued on page 9
The Northwest, Rocky Mountain and California Federations of Mineralogical Societies are hosting a Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip to Texas Springs, NV, over Memorial Day Weekend 2008 and all AFMS members are invited. The Texas Springs area is well known for spectacular pink agate limb casts, as well as, other agate and petrified wood. Texas Springs Canyon is located approximately 25 miles southeast of the town of Jackpot in the northeast corner of Nevada. In addition to the collecting trips we will have potluck dinners, happy hours, speakers, evening campfires, tailgate displays, map exchange, and a great rockhound get-together.

Directions:
The Texas Springs area is located about half way between Wells, NV and Twin Falls, ID, south of Jackpot, NV, and east of Hwy 93. From the south, take I-80 to Wells and go north on Hwy 93. From the north take Hwy 93 south out of Twin Falls. About 2.5 miles south of Jackpot turn east on to the California National Historic Trail and follow the orange plates to camp.

Camp:
Our camp will be located about 6 miles from Hwy 93 on Trout Creek. Roads to campgrounds and collecting sites are typical desert roads. OK for motorhomes and trailers to campgrounds. This is a dry camping area: no services, no hook-ups. We will set up camp starting Tuesday afternoon, May 20th. Please try not to arrive before Wednesday, May 21st; this is due to our BLM camp permit.

Schedule:

1. Wednesday, May 21
   - Arrive at camp.
2. Thursday, May 22
   - Daily Field Trips
   - Welcome potluck dinner and get together
3. Friday, May 23
   - Daily Field Trips
   - Tailgate displays
4. Saturday, May 24
   - Daily Field Trips
   - Tailgate displays
5. Sunday, May 25
   - All Rendezvous Potluck Dinner
6. Monday, May 26
   - Daily Field Trips
   - Break camp to head for home or other adventures
   - Plan on several potluck dinners, and daily happy hours. Bring firewood for evening campfires. We plan on having a good time and collecting some good material.

Please notify your respective Federation leader early, but no later than May 16, if you plan to attend. E-mail (or call) if you have questions or need more information. This will be a great opportunity for rockhounds from all over the west to meet one another, to share stories, and information about collecting in their home areas. Be sure to bring material from your favorite collecting sites to show and share.

Come join us for a great Tri-Federation Rendezvous of collecting, fun and fellowship.

Dick Parks, Northwest Federation
<packrats2@msn.com>
360-892-3716

Yonis Lone Eagle, Rocky Mountain Federation
<rockymountainrockhounds@yahoo.com>
505-860-2455

Richard Pankey, California Federation
<richardpankey@juno.com>
925-439-7509

General Information
1. Daily Field Trips:
   - All trips will leave at 8:30 AM (Mountain Time), SHARP, from the campgrounds. Assembly at 8:15 for details and instructions for each day’s trip. High clearance vehicles recommended to collecting areas. All participants are requested to read and sign a Waiver of Liability.
   - We will collect at 4 to 6 different sites: pink limb casts, small limb casts and bogwood, snakeskin agate, jasp/agate limb casts, geodes, and more.
   - We will divide up into small groups, each group going to a different site each day. Everyone will be able to collect at least once at each site. There will be a signup sheet each day for each site. Much of the collecting will be float. Two sites involve some digging, but not too deep. Bring the following tools: rock bags, rock hammer, shovel, small picks, hoe, rock scoop, spray bottle, safety equipment and whatever else you usually bring.
   - High clearance vehicles highly recommended to collecting sites. We will help arrange rides for those who need them.

2. This trip is open to all members of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and their guests. This trip is hosted by Northwest, Rocky Mountain and California Federations of Mineralogical Societies. Everyone who agrees to adhere to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Code of Ethics, abide by the direction of the field trip leaders, and practice safe rockhounding is welcome to attend.

3. There are two full hook-up campgrounds in Jackpot: Saguaro RV Park - 800-821-1103 and Spanish Gardens - 800-422-8233. There are several casino/motels also in Jackpot: Cactus Pete’s - 800-821-1103, Western Star Resort - 800-655-0643, Four Jacks – 800-251-6313, Barton’s “93” – 800-258-2937.

4. We will have a welcome potluck dinner on Thursday evening and the all Rendezvous Potluck dinner on Saturday evening. Bring food to share and your own plates, eating utensils, tables and chairs. Bring your favorite beverages and snacks to share for Happy Hour each afternoon. We will try to have a campfire each evening so bring firewood.

5. Bring rocks and specimens, etc. from your favorite home collecting area to show and swap at the tailgate display. This will be a good time to swap maps, GPS readings and information about your favorite home collecting areas.

6. This area of Nevada has a lot to offer rockhounds and outdoor enthusiasts. Plan to spend some extra days after (or before) the Rendezvous. Some suggestions and information will be available at camp.

7. Gas in Jackpot can be expensive. Be sure to fill up your tanks and extra gas cans in Wells or Twin Falls.

8. Be prepared for a variety of weather. In 2003 we had sunny skies with the temperatures in the 70’s and cool night in the 40’s.

Federation Directors, Field Trip Leaders and Bulletin Editors:

Please announce this trip at your meetings and publish it in your newsletters. Please make copies of this 2 sided flier and give it to interested club members to get the word out early so people can start planning for this special field trip and get together.
GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS ATTRACTS NEW MEMBERS

by Fran Sick, AFMS Public Relations Chair

One of the most important functions of the Public Relations Committee, at least from my perspective, is to attract new members. So if it seems that much of what I write is directed to our clubs throughout the country that is because it is through our clubs that we get our new federation members.

In my last article I mentioned a few ideas for utilizing the media to promote our clubs and federations by submitting press releases and inviting the press to special club events. If you read the article you may have noticed it ended rather abruptly. Somehow the last couple of sentences were not included. Therefore, the following paragraph begins where the November article ended.

This is a wonderful hobby with many wonderful people. It's time to let the rest of the world know about it. If I can be of any help with ideas about how to get started I would love to hear from you. Please send me your ideas about other ways we might promote our hobby, as well as copies of publicity concerning your club or federation.

This month I plan to cover a few of the basis of newspaper publicity. I realize it is often easier for organizations in small towns and rural areas to get their news published than it is in the larger metropolitan areas. Even so, most newspapers include a Hometown, Local News, What's Happening, or similar page or section, and if articles submitted are newsworthy they will get published. The trick is to make our news more attractive and interesting than the many other articles they receive.

Following are a couple of tips I have learned from talking to local reporters.

Newspapers generally love photos. They also like articles that are short and to the point because editors will not allow a whole page to be devoted to only one or two topics. The heading and first line or paragraph must be attention grabbers and the article must cover the basics – who, what, when, where, why and how. Always pay attention to deadlines and timing. An article published just a few days before a meeting, show or other special event is often more effective than one several weeks in advance. And, as I said before, whenever you submit anything for publication or grant an interview to the press, always find a way to insert a sentence or two about when and where you meet and an invitation to guests, because our guests often become our new members.

I know most of us are aware of these advertising basics. However, an occasional reminder can't hurt. I probably need the reminder more than most because I always tend to write too much.

Please send copies of club and regional federation news to me at ednfran@epix.net. Most club bulletins include federation news and most regional federation bulletins include AFMS News. But we don't often see club or regional federation news in the AFMS Newsletter. With your help I would like to change that by including highlights of your public relations activities in my monthly articles.

May you all have a wonderful holiday season and don't forget to publicize your holiday festivities and invite guests.

ELIZABETH “BETTY” CAULDLE
April 25, 1920 - September 28, 2007

Betty Caudle, wife of AFMS Past President Dan Caudle (1981) has passed away. Long time member of the Tucson Gem & Mineral Society, Betty and Dan were one of the founders of the now world renowned Tucson Gem & Mineral show and a long time member of the Tucson club.

Betty spent many years as a volunteer for the Red Cross and Girl Scouts and, with Dan owned Cibola Gem & Minerals. She was a world-wide traveler, and enjoyed camping in the mountains and deserts of the southwest.

Betty is survived by her three children, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren and of course by her devoted husband, Dan.

Should you wish, contributions in Betty's memory should be directed to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, % of your regional federation coordinator.

MEET YOUR AFMS PERSONNEL

3rd Regional Vice President - Lauren Williams
Lauren resides in Idaho Falls, ID with his lovely wife. He's been very active in his local club, serving in a number of capacities. He "went through the chairs" of the Northwest Federation and served as NWF President in 1993. Besides serving as 3rd Regional VP, Lauren is also chairman of the Endowment Fund Investment Committee.

4th Regional Vice President - Don Monroe
Don resides in Young Harris, GA with his lovely wife Ann. He's been quite active in several local clubs and has served as President of SFMS in 2000. This term as Regional VP is Don's 3rd - having served previously in 2002 and 2007. He's an accomplished silver instructor who frequently teaches silver fabrication at the William Holland School near his home. He continues to also serve AFMS as its Safety Committee Chair.

5th Regional Vice President - Richard Jaeger
Richard has just completed his two-year term as President of the Rocky Mountain Federation. He and his wife Linda (the current AFMS Club Publications chair) live in Tulsa, OK where he's served in a variety of capacities, including President of his local club.

EARLY DEADLINE!
The deadline for the next newsletter will be January 24, 2008
From the Mailbag - We Need to Get Involved

by Hugh G. Brady, Ramona Rock Rollers G & M Society and Funds for Fun Society

On October 11-13, 2007 I attended a Route Designation workshop put on by the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NO-HVCC). This conference was located in the Sacramento, CA area. The first two days were oriented toward the Forest Service managers with the weekend session for the OHV Enthusiasts and other stakeholders. We, rockhounds, should be a serious stakeholder in this process which will affect all National Forest and ultimately BLM lands. Both Forest Service and BLM managers attended.

Though the workshop was oriented toward off-highway vehicle enthusiasts, it was enlightening, entertaining, thought provoking and very useful to me. Unfortunately, they do not have further workshops scheduled for California, but are giving them nationwide so there may be other opportunities.

The bottom line is that rockhounds must be involved in the process or we stand a high chance of losing our collecting sites on public land. ANY ROAD OR TRAIL NOT DESIGNATED THROUGH THE PROCESS WILL BE CLOSED TO WHEELED MOTORIZED VEHICLES. Further, there will be seasonal closures. One alternative for the El Dorado Forest proposes a 6 month closure period.

All 19 National Forests in California (Region 5) are going through a Route Designation process. The plan is to have all processes complete by September, 2008. The final result will be a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). If a road is not shown (designated) on this map, you may not drive on it. You must obtain, read and correctly interpret the map or be subject to penalties. Will you want to be a field trip leader under this condition?

Some California National Forests or portions thereof had designated systems so didn’t have much to do but tweaking the existing system to complete the process.

The following have final or draft maps: Angeles, Los Padres, San Bernardino, Stanislaus (Summit Ranger District), and Tahoe Basin.

El Dorado is under court order to finish their Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) by December, 2007, so is further along than the rest. The final comment period for their Draft EIS closed on October 20, 2007. If they implement the Preferred Alternative unchanged, they will close over half of the roads currently inventoried as accessible to 4 wheeled drive vehicles. And this does not include ones not even on the inventory.

Most of the other California National Forests have a completed inventory and have or will be shortly publishing their Notice of Intent/Scoping Document for the EIS. This is about equivalent to 9 or 10 PM on a 24 hour clock of the process. You can still make impacts but only by quick action.

If you have collecting sites in any National Forest which you want to access, you need to contact that Forest now and:

1. Find out where they are in the process and get on their mailing list. Become familiar with the process.
2. Obtain and study the inventory maps and determine if the routes to the site are on the map. If not let the FS know in writing.
3. Stay involved in all further steps through the Final EIS and map preparation. Scoping is important because if every purpose is only to minimize some impact, roads are sure to close. The battle in El Dorado was basically lost at this stage. Be sure to comment on the Draft EIS both positively and negatively, as needed, or you lose any standing for later action.
4. Obtain a final Motor Vehicle Use Map and determine where you can go and maybe even when to go or how you park.

If you work on the Internet, you can go to <www.fs.fed.us/r5> which will take you to the Region 5 site. From here you can work to the individual forests and look for Route Designation information. I have also had luck adding /forest name/ after r5 to get to the individual forests. I have not looked at every site and the ultimate contact is a meeting or call to the forest supervisor or his designated route manager.

(Note: This was written from a California perspective, so other areas may have to adjust accordingly.)

Hugh G. Brady

Seminar for Exhibitors and Judges

from Ron Carman and the Austin Gem & Mineral Society

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society and South Central Federation will host a seminar for all persons who wish to learn more about making a show display and how exhibits are judged. This two-day seminar will be held at the AGMS clubhouse (address below) on March 8 and 9, 2008. Everyone in the AFMS is invited to come and find out more about what makes good exhibits and how they are judged. There is a nominal fee of $15.00 to cover the costs of printing and refreshments. Attendees will receive copies of the latest AFMS Uniform Rules, which are what the judges follow when looking at displays. Also, a flyer and application form are available on the AFMS & SCFMS websites for all those interested to print, fill out, and send back.

We will need at least twelve persons to participate in order to make the effort worth while, and we would like to have many more. If interested, please fill out and send in the application, and if you have any more questions, including directions to the AGMS club house, feel free to contact Ron Carman at <rrcarman@centurytel.net> or the AGMS at the address on the form.

We would be happy to see you there!

Exhibitors & Judges Seminar Application

March 8 & 9, 2008  Austin, Texas

Name: ____________________________________________

(As you want it to appear on your certificate)

Address: ____________________________________________

City __________________________________ State _______ ZIP _____________

Phone Number: ________________________________  E Mail __________________________

I am interested in (circle one): Exhibiting Learning to Judge

Primary Area of Interest: MINERALS____ FOSSILS____ JEWELRY____ LAPIRIMARY____

OTHER ______________________________________

Please submit one application per person with fees attached. Multiple applications may be mailed together.

Mail applications to: AGMS, Attn of Exhibitors & Judges Seminar, 6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX 78757
Club Concerns & Responses

1. The All-American Award is for a Historical Documentation of a complete year in the Rock Group. The title does not define the project. The Historian usually collects the basic highlights of a year. This notebook defines the details.

Response: I concur and have had the same thought for years. I thus have titled it the All American "Yearbook," Award.

2. "Scrapbook" sounds more like a crafty project for young people. A Historical Year Notebook sounds more appealing to some members.

Response: As noted above I am calling it a "Yearbook", but I am still appealing to those who like to do "Scrapbooking" to use a scrapbook format to entice them to enter the contest. Those who have do so have fared very well.

3. The by-laws state that the American Federation and their affiliates should not be political. Yet points are taken off for members not writing to your congressman or representative to save collecting sites. I can understand trying to save places to collect, but there is a fine political line walked here and I personally do not think this is an area for taking off points. This is my own viewpoint but I state it anyway.

Response: I checked the AFMS By-Laws and found no such restriction. However I know that as a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit group we can not do any "lobbying" without jeopardizing our IRS status. Also I disagree that exercising one of our basic rights, freedom of speech, is political. In fact having and exercising such rights is what makes us "American" and therefore should be strongly considered as a requirement for being recognized as an "All American" club. Again in the last issue of the AFMS newsletter on the front page was the appeal for us as an organization and as individuals to write our representatives about keeping our access to public lands. So this requirement supports one of our organizations goals. All of the clubs should be members of the ALAA and should be writing letters.

4. Three points are taken off automatically for No Junior Program.

Response: Many groups have activities for members in their regular meetings, as shown by photos and programs they take part in. The Shows also have many activities geared to the Junior members. There are only 7 days in a week, and Juniors are stretched to beyond limits for a separate time to have a "subgroup" of the Club. I am a firm believer that they can learn more at the shoulders of the regular members who mentor and guide them in the regular meetings, rather than have a separate group doing projects. I grew up with favorite Aunts & Uncles who took the time in regular activities to include me in the group activities rather than separate me as a Kid! Now-a-days, kids are far from relatives geographically, and don't always hear adult viewpoints. This is necessary for maturity. Encourage the Juniors and their sponsors to come and participate in the regular meetings. They both will profit.

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**THE Tool DAYS of Holiday**

by Patricia Baker, Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, Gem Cutters News, December 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>An Ultratec Faceting Machine</td>
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<tr>
<td>First day of Holiday</td>
<td>Two Cotton Gloves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second day of Holiday</td>
<td>Four Cutting Burrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third day of Holiday</td>
<td>Three French Hammers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourth day of Holiday</td>
<td>Five Gold Ingots</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fifth day of Holiday</td>
<td>Six Sheets of Copper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sixth day of Holiday</td>
<td>Seven Slabs for Trimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seventh day of Holiday</td>
<td>Eight Stones for Setting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eighth day of Holiday</td>
<td>Nine Kinds of Pliers</td>
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<td>Ninth day of Holiday</td>
<td>Ten Kilns for Fusing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tenth day of Holiday</td>
<td>Eleven Rods of Sterling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eleventh day of Holiday</td>
<td>Twelve Dremels Drilling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twelfth day of Holiday</td>
<td>My true love sent to me</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thirteenth day of Holiday</td>
<td>And an Ultratec Faceting Machine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourteenth day of Holiday</td>
<td>Two Cotton Gloves</td>
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<td>Fifteenth day of Holiday</td>
<td>Three French Hammers</td>
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<td>16th day of Holiday</td>
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<td>17th day of Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th day of Holiday</td>
<td>Two Cotton Gloves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th day of Holiday</td>
<td>Three French Hammers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th day of Holiday</td>
<td>Five Gold Ingots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st day of Holiday</td>
<td>Six Sheets of Copper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd day of Holiday</td>
<td>Seven Slabs for Trimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd day of Holiday</td>
<td>Eight Stones for Setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th day of Holiday</td>
<td>Nine Kinds of Pliers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th day of Holiday</td>
<td>Ten Kilns for Fusing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Here's wishing you a happy holiday season and a very, healthy and prosperous 2008.